

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-13 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:BH

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

L/NEA:MR.SMALL

JUSTICE:MR.CLARKSON

IO/UNP:MR.HAGE (INFO)

----- 111947

R 160335Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091754

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG

SUBJECT: FEDERAL ACTION AGAINST ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE

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REF: STATE 74924

1. FOR ADDRESSEE POSTS' BACKGROUND INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS PRESENT STATUS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S INJUNCTION AGAINST ARAB INFORMATION CENTER AND ITS DIRECTOR, AMBASSADOR HILMY.
 2. STATUS CALL WAS HELD ON APRIL 12 IN JUDGE FLANNERY'S CHAMBERS IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN WASHINGTON AS SCHEDULED, BUT THE PARTIES WERE UNABLE TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE CONSENT DECREE. THEREFORE, MR. ROBERT THABET, REPRESENTING THE ARAB INFORMATION CENTER, WILL BY APRIL 26 RESPOND TO A DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MOTION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND WILL ANSWER THE ALLEGATIONS OF THE OOMPL8AET (I.E., THE FIVE CAUSES ACTION SET FORTH IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL). BY JUNE 1, BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE ANY DISCOVERY (I.E., BY TAKING DEPOSITIONS OR REQUIRING THE PRODUCTION OF OTHER EVIDENCE SUCH AS DOCUMENTS). ON JUNE 7, THERE IS TO BE ANOTHER STATUS CALL BY WHICH TIME JUDGE FLANNERY WILL SET A TRIAL DATE UNLESS BOTH PARTIES HAVE IN THE MEANTIME ENTERED INTO A CONSENT DECREE.
 3. THE PRINCIPAL STICKING POINTS APPEAR TO BE RESISTANCE TO HAVING AMBASSADOR HILMY REGISTER AS A FOREIGN AGENT AND TO GIVING ASSURANCE TO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THAT ALL RECORDS ON THE ARAB INFORMATION CENTER WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION, INCLUDING THOSE DOCUMENTS HELD BY THE ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE IN NEW YORK, IF THESE RELATE TO ARAB INFORMATION CENTER ACTIVITIES. APPARENTLY, THE CENTER'S LEGAL COUNSEL CONTESTS JUSTICE'S ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS HELD BY THE ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE.
 4. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN JUSTICE AND THE ARAB INFORMATION CENTER'S LEGAL COUNSEL PRIOR TO THE NEXT STATUS CALL AND ADDRESSEE POSTS WILL BE KEPT INFORMED.
- ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, INFORMATION CENTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE091754
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FMDICKMAN:BH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760145-0618
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760453/aaaabswp.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 74924
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEDERAL ACTION AGAINST ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, US, XF, ARAB LEAGUE
To: ABU DHABI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006